



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

CLARE L. HOKE, JR  
SUITE 11  
1318 N. MONTE VISTA AVENUE  
UPLAND, CA 91786

**MAILED**

SEP 30 2009

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Clare L. Hoke, Jr. :  
Application No. 10/713,282 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: November 15, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a decision on the petition under the unavoidable provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed August 5, 2009, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

On December 8, 2008, the Office mailed a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (Notice), which set a one (1) month or thirty (30) days shortened statutory period to reply. The application became abandoned on January 9, 2009, for failure to submit a timely response to the December 8, 2008 Office action. On July 6, 2009 the Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l); (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(d). The instant petition lacks items (1) and (3).

With respect to item 1:

The required reply does not have a proper signature. An unsigned amendment (or other paper) or one not properly signed by a person having authority to prosecute the application is not entered. This applies, for instance, where the amendment (or other paper) is not signed.

With respect to item 3:

The showing of the record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 151 and 37 CFR 1.137(a). See MPEP 711(c)(II)(C)(2) for a discussion of the requirements for a showing of unavoidable delay.

The showing of record is that the delay in taking action in the above-identified application was the result of petitioner's preoccupation with other matters. Petitioner's preoccupation with other matters which took precedence over the above-identified application does not constitute unavoidable delay. See Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

"The word 'unavoidable'...is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely on the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees and such other means instrumentalities are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly to be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present."

In re Mattulath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Windklet v. Ladd, 221 F. supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68(D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F. 2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir 1982.). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

If petitioner cannot provide the evidence necessary to establish unavoidable delay, or simply does not wish to, petitioner may wish to consider filing a petition stating that the delay was unintentional. Public Law 97-247, § 3, 96 Stat. 317 (1982), which revised patent and trademark fees, amended 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) to provide for the revival of an "unintentionally" abandoned application without a showing that the delay in prosecution or in late payment of the issue fee was "unavoidable." This amendment to 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) has been implemented in 37 CFR 1.137(b). An "unintentional" petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the \$810 petition fee.

The filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore must be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Any further petition to revive must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail:                    Mail Stop PETITION  
                                  Commissioner for Patents  
                                  P. O. Box 1450  
                                  Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand:                    U. S. Patent and Trademark Office  
                                  Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions  
                                  Randolph Building  
                                  401 Dulany Street  
                                  Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile:              **(571) 273-8300**  
                                  Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to April M. Wise at (571) 272-1642.

/dab/  
David Bucci  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

Enclosures: Petition For Revival Of An Application For Patent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 CFR 1.137(b); Form PTO/SB/64, Privacy Act Statement; and a copy of the Office action dated December 9, 2008.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Courtsey  
Copy

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,282	11/15/2003	Clare L. Hoke JR.		1123
7590	12/09/2008		EXAMINER	
Clare L. Hoke Jr. Suite 11 1318 N. Monte Vista Ave. Upland, CA 91786			MURDOUGH, JOSHUA A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3621		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		12/09/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/713,282	HOKE, CLARE L.
	Examiner JOSHUA MURDOUGH	Art Unit 3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

The amendment document filed on 10 March 2008 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 or 1.4. In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following item(s) is required.

**THE FOLLOWING MARKED (X) ITEM(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:**

- 1. Amendments to the specification:
  - A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
  - B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
  - C. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Abstract:
  - A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
  - B. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Amendments to the drawings:
  - A. The drawings are not properly identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet," "New Sheet," or "Annotated Sheet" as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d).
  - B. The practice of submitting proposed drawing correction has been eliminated. Replacement drawings showing amended figures, without markings, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 are required.
  - C. Other \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Amendments to the claims:
  - A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
  - B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims)
  - C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. Note: the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following status identifiers: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Previously presented), (New), (Not entered), (Withdrawn) and (Withdrawn-currently amended).
  - D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
  - E. Other: See attached.
- 5. Other (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or not signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4):
   


---

For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714.

**TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:**

1. Applicant is given **no new time period** if the non-compliant amendment is an after-final amendment or an amendment filed after allowance. If applicant wishes to resubmit the non-compliant after-final amendment with corrections, the entire **corrected amendment** must be resubmitted.
2. Applicant is given **one month**, or thirty (30) days, whichever is longer, from the mail date of this notice to supply the correction, if the non-compliant amendment is one of the following: a preliminary amendment, a non-final amendment (including a submission for a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114), a supplemental amendment filed within a suspension period under 37 CFR 1.103(a) or (c), and an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action. If any of above boxes 1. to 4. are checked, the correction required is only the **corrected section** of the non-compliant amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121.

**Extensions of time** are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a) only if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action.

**Failure to timely respond** to this notice will result in:

**Abandonment** of the application if the non-compliant amendment is a non-final amendment or an amendment filed in response to a Quayle action; or

**Non-entry** of the amendment if the non-compliant amendment is a preliminary amendment or supplemental amendment.

**ACTION**

1. The Amendment of 10 March 2008 does not contain reference to claims 1-31. The Examiner acknowledges his note in the previous action in regards to these claims (Paragraph 1). However, the lack of the status for these claims is causing difficulty in processing. As there have been no claims presented with these numbers, an indication that the claims are canceled (as was done for claims 1-12 in the original listing) would be most appropriate.
2. Also, claims 43-45 are currently listed as being withdrawn. A claim can only properly be withdrawn by the Examiner after a restriction. It appears Applicant intended these claims not to be examined in the next office action. If this is the case, Applicant should cancel these claims.
3. With these claims being listed as withdrawn, they are still considered pending and therefore count toward the number of claims. As claims 32-54 would be pending, a fee for the three claims in excess of twenty would be required. If Applicant cancels claims 43-45, as noted above, this situation would also be remedied.
4. To properly respond to this notice, Applicant should:
  - a. Submit a new listing of the claims;
  - b. Indicate claims 1-31 are canceled; and
  - c. Indicate claims 43-45 are canceled **or** Indicate claims 43-45 as previously presented and pay the appropriate fee for the claims in excess of 20.
5. If Applicant replies within 1 month of the mailing date of this notice, and chooses to cancel claims 43-45, there should be no fees due with the response. If Applicant replies after the 1 month period, an extension of time fee must be paid.

6. The reply filed on 10 March 2008 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the above omission(s) or matter(s). See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSHUA MURDOUGH whose telephone number is (571)270-3270. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joshua Murdough, Examiner, Art Unit 3621

/ANDREW J. FISCHER/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3621